

REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 21, 2001 with claims 1-17. Claims 1-17 remain pending. Claims 1 and 17 are the independent claims.

Claims 1-6, 9, 11-15 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,724,767 (hereinafter "Chong"). The remaining claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Chong alone or in combination with other cited references.

In this response, Applicants respectfully traverse the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections, and amend independent claims 1 and 17.

With regard to the §102(e) rejection, Applicants initially note that MPEP §2131 specifies that a given claim is anticipated "only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, MPEP §2131 indicates that the cited reference must show the "identical invention . . . in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim," citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). For the reasons identified below, Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish anticipation of claims 1-6, 9, 11-15 and 17 by Chong.

Independent claims 1 and 17 as originally filed recite first and second classification circuitry which perform respective first pass and second pass classifications on portions of a given packet. The portion of the given packet that is subject to second pass classification is determined by the first pass classification. Such an arrangement provides significant advantages in terms of reducing the required amount of buffer memory. See the specification at, for example, page 6, lines 20-22.

It is believed that Chong fails to teach or suggest the claimed arrangements, and fails to provide their associated memory reduction advantages.

In formulating the §102(e) rejection, the Examiner relies on the receiver block 60 as described in column 6, lines 17-19, of Chong. However, this disclosure from Chong simply indicates that, in an ATM termination mode of operation, receiver block 60 "upon cell arrival . . . extracts the cell header and passes the cell payload to either an internal cell buffer or local memory." This appears to be nothing more than conventional processing of ATM cells to

separate the header and payload portions of the cells. Chong does not make any mention at all regarding performance of both a first pass classification and a second pass classification, much less specify a particular relationship between first pass and second pass classification such as that recited in claims 1 and 17.

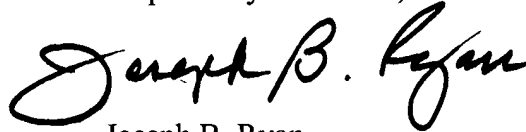
Accordingly, the §102(e) rejection is believed to be improper, and should be withdrawn. The additional references fail to supplement the above-noted fundamental deficiencies of Chong as applied to the independent claims, and the §103(a) rejections are therefore also believed to be improper and should be withdrawn.

Notwithstanding the traversal, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17 without prejudice, solely in order to expedite prosecution of the application. More specifically, claims 1 and 17 have been amended to indicate that the first classification circuitry in processing a plurality of packets comprising the given packet and an additional packet generates respective first and second first pass classification determinations that are different from one another and that result in different-sized portions of the respective packets being stored in the second memory circuitry for processing by the second classification circuitry. Thus, it is clear that the claimed arrangements provide an ability to alter, from one packet to another packet, the particular packet portions that are stored in the second memory circuitry. As noted previously, this advantageously allows a significant reduction in the size of the second memory circuitry. Simply removing cell headers for all received cells as recited in Chong does not provide such an advantage.

Support for the amendments can be found in the specification at, for example, page 4, line 21, to page 5, line 2, page 6, lines 12-22, page 7, lines 16-18, and page 10, lines 12-14.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1-17 are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the withdrawal of the §102(e) and §103(a) rejections.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph B. Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "R".

Date: October 12, 2005

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